

**Remarks**

The amendments to the specification herein associate a sequence identifier with each sequence disclosed in the specification. Additionally, “HPA™” is being replaced with “HPA” in the specification, as “HPA” was incorrectly identified as a trade name. No new matter is has been introduced by these amendments to the specification.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for participating in a telephone interview with the undersigned on March 15, 2004. During the interview, Applicants’ representative articulated reasons for entering the amendments set forth in their Amendment dated January 9, 2004. In that Amendment, Applicants proposed canceling claims 495 and 503 and amending the language of claims 492 and 555. Applicants’ representative pointed out that the language proposed for claim 492 is identical to the language of claim 495, as it was presented in Applicants’ Reply dated September 17, 2002. After applying Palfi *et al.*, *PNAS*, 88:9097-9101 (1991), as a prior art reference in a subsequent Office Action mailed on June 3, 2003, the Examiner merely objected to the language of claim 495. Thus, Applicants’ representative submitted that the proposed amendments to claim 492 do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Applicants’ representative additionally noted that the proposed amendment to claim 555 simply made explicit what had been implicit, that a promoter sequence is needed to direct the synthesis of a nucleic acid transcription product under amplification conditions. It was further noted by Applicants’ representative that the language proposed for claim 555 was fully contained within the language of claim 494, as it was presented in Applicants’ Reply dated September 17, 2002. Claim 494 was merely objected to in the Examiner’s Office Action mailed on June 3, 2003, thus it was argued that the proposed amendments to claim 555 do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed to enter Applicants’ amendments.

AMENDMENT

Serial No. 09/523,237  
Atty. Docket No. GP068-03.CN1

Applicants submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

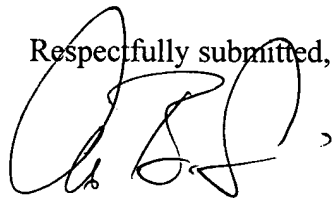
No fee is believed due in connection with this Amendment. If Applicants are mistaken, please charge any amount due to Deposit Account No. 07-0835 in the name of Gen-Probe Incorporated.

**Certificate of Mailing**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date indicated below with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 19, 2004

By:

Respectfully submitted,  


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